

Electi is produced by the same pigment (ara-red) as the red which adorns the breast of the male *Electi* (see Dr. C. Fr. W. Krukenberg, 'Vergl. physiologische Studien,' ii. p. 161 *seq.*, Heidelberg, 1881; and A. B. Meyer, 'Mitth. d. ornith. Vereins zu Wien,' p. 83 *seq.*, 1881)—facts which not only do not contradict the statement that the green and red *Electi* sexually belong together, but directly support it. They, besides, give a clue to the occurrence of yellow in the females and of red in the males: in the first case the male influence comes into appearance in the female dress, in the second the female influence in the male dress. Only a partial mixture of colour takes place in *Electus*, whereas in the majority of birds the mixture of male and female characters is a more complete one.

But, however this may be, the doubts which some ornithologists still entertain as to the "theory" promulgated by myself in 1874, will finally vanish only after successful breeding-experiments in captivity. Our hopes that this may be soon accomplished are founded on the fact that Dr. Frenzel, of Freiberg in Saxony, has already succeeded twice so far that two couples of young *Electi* have been developed in the eggs, ready to emerge, when they died from unknown causes. These four specimens are now preserved in spirit in the Dresden Museum. But Dr. Frenzel informs me that now again his pair (green and red) of *E. pectoralis* are sitting vigorously on fertilized eggs¹. If he succeeds in rearing up the young ones, we shall have the pleasure of observing the change of plumage from red into green, or of stating that the sexual difference of colour exists from the beginning—a question which is, as far as I see, not yet finally settled.

2. A Note on the Genera *Schœnicola* and *Catriscus*. By R. BOWDLER SHARPE, F.L.S., F.Z.S., &c., Department of Zoology, British Museum.

[Received October 21, 1880.]

During the last two years a great deal of interest has been shown in India with respect to Jerdon's *Schœnicola platyura*, a little Reed-bird, which was described by him as *Timalia platyura* (Madr. Journ. xiii. p. 170), and was afterwards made the type of the genus *Schœnicola* by Blyth (J. A. S. Beng. xxxiii. p. 374). The typical specimen was lost; and the bird remained unidentified for years, merely receiving a short notice, in 1863, from Jerdon in his 'Birds of India' (ii. p. 73). In 1878, however, Mr. Frank Bourdillon met with the species in Southern Travancore, as recorded by Mr. Hume in the 7th volume of 'Stray Feathers' (p. 37). Again, in Capt. Legge's 'Birds of Ceylon,' reference is made to a specimen which had been since 1854 lying undetermined in a box in the British Museum; but Capt. Legge (somewhat inconsistently, in my opinion) only gave it a place in his work in a foot-note. There is not the slightest reason for believing that the specimen in question is not a genuine Ceylonese skin,

¹ See Dr. Frenzel's letter above, p. 916.

as it was purchased by the Museum from Mr. Cuming, who received it doubtless from one of his correspondents, perhaps Mr. Thwaites or Mr. Layard. Anyhow, I have no doubt that the bird occurs in Ceylon, and has escaped observation there, just as it did for so long in India.

In the ninth volume of 'Stray Feathers' several notices of this bird are published. At p. 209 Mr. W. Edwin Brooks, who has made the Warblers of India his especial study, gives a minute account of the generic features of *Schœnicola*, based on the Travancore specimen procured by Mr. Bourdillon (*Mus. A. O. Hume*); and at p. 211, Mr. Hume gives an editorial note, with additional information from Mr. Bourdillon, recording the capture of three more specimens. Two of these have since passed into the collection of the British Museum, and are marked by the collector as "breeding," a statement on which Capt. Butler afterwards comments. At p. 234, Mr. Hume records the capture of a specimen by Captain Butler at Belgaum, and suggests the possibility of *Schœnicola* being identical with the African genus *Catriscus*. Lastly, at p. 260 of the same volume of 'Stray Feathers,' Mr. Hume gives an excellent résumé of the history of *Schœnicola platyura* as far as known, and Capt. Butler adds some most interesting notes on the nesting of the species at Belgaum. In the space of two years, therefore, this interesting bird has been rescued from the oblivion into which it had fallen, and we now know a good deal about its habits and general economy.

It is with the object of answering Mr. Hume's question as to the possibility of the Indian bird being identical with the African *Catriscus apicalis*, that I write these few lines. A perception of affinities has been one of Mr. Hume's most noticeable qualities as an ornithologist; and his association of *Schœnicola* with *Catriscus* turns out to be perfectly correct; but the Indian species is not exactly the same as the African one. The following I believe to be the literary history of the genus, with its two species:—

SCHÆNICOLA.

Type.

Schœnicola, Blyth, J. A. S. Beng. xiii. p. 374 (1844),
nec Bp. 1850) *S. platyura*.
Catriscus, Cab. Mus. Hein. Th. i. p. 43 (1850) .. *S. apicalis*.

Clavis specierum.

- a. Saturate rufescenti-brunneus, regione parotica pileo concolori;
hypocondriis saturate rufescenti-brunneis; subcaudalibus ful-
vescentibus vel rufescenti-brunneis *platyura*.
b. Pallide rufescenti-brunneus, regione parotica pallide brunnea;
hypocondriis fulvescentibus; subcaudalibus nigricantibus pal-
lido marginatis..... *apicalis*.

1. SCHÆNICOLA PLATYURA.

Timalia platyura, Jerdon, Madr. Journ. xiii. p. 170 (1844); Gray,
Hand-l. B. i. p. 315, no. 4706.

Schœnicola platyura, Blyth, J. A. S. Beng. xiii. p. 374 (1844);
Jerd. B. Ind. ii. p. 73 (1863); Hume, Str. F. 1878, vol. vii. p. 37;
id. Str. F. 1879, p. 97; Brooks, Str. F. 1880, p. 209; Hume, t. cit.

p. 211; Legge, B. Ceylon, p. 532, note (1880); Hume, Str. F. 1880, pp. 234, 260; Butler, Cat. B. of South Bombay Pres. p. 43 (1880).

The Indian Broad-tailed Reed-bird inhabits Southern India, and has been procured by Capt. Butler at Belgaum in 16° N. lat.; also by Jerdon in the Goodalore Ghat, Wynaad, 11° 30' N. lat.; again, in Southern Travancore, in 8° 30' N. lat. (*Bourdillon*); and extends into Ceylon (*spec. in Mus. Brit.*), the exact locality being unknown, though Mr. Hume suggests about 7° N. lat.

2. SCHÆNICOLA APICALIS.

Sylvia apicalis, Licht. MS. in Mus. Berol., undè

Catircus apicalis, Cab. Mus. Hein. Th. i. p. 43 (note); Gurney, Ibis, 1863, p. 323; id. Ibis, 1866, p. 140; Heugl. Ibis, 1869, p. 81; id. Orn. N.O.-Afr. p. 273, tab. ix. (1869); Shelley, Ibis, 1875, p. 71; Sharpe, ed. Layard B. S. Afr. p. 283 (1876).

Bradypterus brevirostris, Sundev. K. Vet.-Akad. Förh. Stockh. 1850, p. 483.

Cettia apicalis, Licht. Nomencl. Av. Berol. p. 29.

Sphenæacus alexinæ, Heugl. J. f. O. 1863, p. 166.

Drymoica apicalis, Layard, B. S. Afr. p. 96, no. 173 (1867); Gray, Hand-l. B. i. p. 201, no. 2833 (1869).

Calamodyta brevirostris, Gray, Hand-l. B. i. p. 209, no. 2958 (1869).

In North-eastern Africa the African Broad-tailed Reed-bird was met with by Heuglin in the vast grass-lands on the affluents of the Gazelle river. In South Africa it appears to be found only in Natal.

3. Description of a new Species of *Anolis* from Yucatan.

By G. A. BOULENGER.

[Received October 28, 1881.]

ANOLIS BECKERI, sp. n.

Head moderate, much longer than the tibia, its width contained once and three fourths in its length. Snout convex, rounded, as broad as long, with rather indistinct canthus rostralis. No facial rugæ. Prefrontal concavity slightly marked. Nostril lateral, separated from rostral by a granule and a small scale. Front half of snout covered with granular, the remainder with moderate-sized hexagonal smooth scales. Canthal scales four. Superciliary semi-circles formed of seven or eight large scales, in contact in the middle, or separated by only one row of narrow scales. Supraorbital disk with moderate-sized smooth scales, separated from superciliaries by two rows of granules. Occipital twice the diameter of ear-opening, surrounded with small irregular scales, and separated from superciliaries by two rows of scales. Three rows of loreal scales. 8-10